

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02645 101624Z

41

ACTION EUR-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

----- 067946

O R 101515Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9011

UNCLAS PRAGUE 2645

USIAC

PASS IBS/BE; IEU - J. SADLIK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CZ

SUBJ: HARTMAN PRESS CONFERENCE, PRAGUE, OCT. 10.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ARTHUR A. HARTMAN TOLD A PRAGUE PRESS CONFERENCE FRIDAY, OCT. 10 THAT HE SEES AN IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE AND BETTER CZECH-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN THE PERIOD AHEAD. HARTMAN MADE THE REMARKS AT THE CLOSE OF A THREE DAY VISIT TO THE CZECH CAPITAL. HIS SENTIMENTS WERE ECHOED BY A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN WHO SAID THAT "THE TALKS WERE VERY USEFUL. WE DISCUSSED ALL PROBLEMS AFFECTING OUR RELATIONS AND ALL PARTICIPANTS WERE VERY MUCH SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS."

HARTMAN NOTED THAT THE GOAL OF BOTH SIDES WAS TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE OF CZECH-AMERICAN RELATIONS WHILE TRYING TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF THE FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT--TRADE PROBLEM. SPECIFICALLY, THE AMERICAN CONGRESS LAST YEAR PASSED A RESOLUTION DENYING MOST FAVORED NATION TRADE STATUS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA UNTIL THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT IS SETTLED. THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT IS IN TURN LINKED TO SETTLING THE LITIGATION OF A NUMBER OF CLAIMANTS WHOSE HOLDINGS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE NATIONALISED IN THE IMMEDIATE POST WORLD WAR II YEARS AND WHO HAVE OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL CLAIMS TO BE RESOLVED. HARTMAN SAID "WE HOPE TO HAVE SOME PROGRESS ON THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO DISCUSS IT IN THE UNITED STATES WITH

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 02645 101624Z

BOTH THE CONGRESS AND THE CLAIMANTS. WE HAVE TO SORT OUT THE

SITUATION

ON OUR SIDE FIRST AND THEN SEE WHETHER OR NOT WE HAVE SOMETHING NEW TO SAY TO THE CZECHS OR WHETHER WE CAN GO AHEAD WITH THE AGREEMENT AS IT WAS SIGNED."

IN ADDITION TO THE CLAIMS AGREEMENT, OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED AT THE HIGH-LEVEL TALKS WERE THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED CSCE AGREEMENTS, CZECH PRESS TREATMENT OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY, IMPROVING JOURNALISTIC RELATIONS, RESUMING THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE DIVIDED FAMILIES QUESTION, AND OTHER SUBJECTS.

CSCE

ONE TOPIC DISCUSSED WAS THE RECENTLY COMPLETED HELSINKI TALKS, AT WHICH THE CSCE AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED BY, AMONG OTHERS, CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S PRESIDENT GUSTAV HUSAK AND AMERICA'S PRESIDENT GERALD FORD. MR. HARTMAN REMARKED "WE STATED OUR VIEW THAT WE HOPED THERE COULD BE SOME VISABLE PROGRESS IN PARTICULAR IN THE AREAS OF INTEREST TO US AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. WE PICKED UP THE THEME OF OUR PRESIDENT'S SPEECH IN HELSINKI THAT THE IMPORTANT THING FOR THE WESTERN COUNTRIES IS THE ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION IN PRACTICE OF SOME OF THE HELSINKI PRECEPTS, NOT JUST TO LEAVE THE BROAD PRINCIPLES SITTING THERE. WE'LL BE LOOKING FOR THAT BEFORE ANY MEETING IN 1977, BECAUSE OUR PUBLIC WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED IF WE'RE UNABLE TO POINT TO SOMETHING THAT'S ACTUALLY HAPPENED, PHYSICALLY."

PRESS

THE RANKING AMERICAN DIPLOMAT SAID HE THOUGHT THAT CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES SOMETIMES RESULTED IN A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON CZECH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. NOTING THAT HE REFERRED TO "SOME OF THE PRESS TREATMENT OF AMERICAN POLICY SPECIFICALLY," HE SAID "I MADE THE POINT THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WOULD HELP IN IMPROVING THE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS TO HAVE A LITTLE LESS PUBLIC CRITICISM AND A LITTLE MORE TALK FACE TO FACE ON WHAT THE DIFFERENCES OF OUR POLICY MIGHT BE. THAT'S ONE REASON WHY WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE PERIODIC TALKS, SO THAT WE DON'T TALK TO EACH OTHER THROUGH OUR PRESS."

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 02645 101624Z

HE ADDED "IT IS PERFECTLY APPROPRIATE FOR THE CZECH GOVERNMENT TO TALK ABOUT ITS POLICIES AND WHAT THEY ARE AND WHY THEY ARE. IN THE PROCESS THEY CAN BE CRITICAL OF THE POLICIES OF OTHER PEOPLE, BUT I THINK A LITTLE LESS HEAT BEHIND THAT WOULD HELP IN IMPROVING THE OVERALL ATMOSPHERE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP.

JOURNALISTS

MR. HARTMAN CALLED ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS VISITING CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HE STATED "WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE PRESS CONTACT BACK AND FORTH. THERE ARE NO RESIDENT AMERICAN NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. WE QVE HAD SOME PROBLEMS IN THE PAST ON VISAS. ONE OF OUR DIFFICULTIES OVER THE LAST FEW YEARFG IS THAT IT IS AN EVENT WHEN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS COME HERE, AND THEREFORE JOURNALISTS TREAT IT AS AN EVENT AND YOU DON'T GET THE KIND OF MORE REASONED LOOK AT THE WHOLE SITUATION YOU WOULD IF SOMEONE WAS HERE OVER A PERIOD OF TIME."

#### EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

MR. HARTMAN SAID THAT THE CZECH AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS WERE EXPECTED TO SHORTLY RESUME TALKS LEADING TO A CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. HE SAID "IN THE ABSENCE OF BEING ABLE TO MAKE IMMEDIATE PROGRESS ON THE TRADE ISSUZN WEC IEVKAA ABOUT OTHER AREAS WMVRE WE HGMW BE ABLE TO IMPROVE THE ACTUAL RELATIONSHIP AND THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES V/TNLTHIS, WE WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH THE CZECH AUTHORITIES AN AGREEMENT ON EXCHANGES IN THE CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND SCIENTIFIC AREAS. THIS WILL GIVE A FRAMEWORK TO SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE IN FACT GOING ON AND ENABLE US TO DO MORE." HE ADDED "WE HOPE TO COMPLETE THAT VERY SHORTLY."

#### EMIGRATION ISSUE

MR. HARTMAN NOTED THAT "A NUMBER OF CASES OF DIVIDED FAMILIES" CONTINUED TO BE A PROBLEM IN CZECH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF DIVIDED FAMILIES WAS NOT AS NUMEROUS AS THE "THOUSANDS OF CASES" AFFECTING POLISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

#### CONSULTATIONS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PRAGUE 02645 101624Z

MR. HARTMAN NOTED THAT ON MANY POINTS "OUR TALKS TOOK THE FORM OF A CONSULTATION, WHICH IS A PROCESS WE HAVE WITH MANY COUNTRIES, EAST AND WEST. IT IS USEFUL TO COMPARE NOTES ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS. WE'LL DO THIS NOW ON A MORE REGULAR BASIS WITH CZECHO SLOVAKIA. I INVITED MINISTER SPACIL TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE THE SAME KIND OF TALKS WITH US NEXT YEAR."

#### BUSINESS REPRESENTATION

THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAID "WE ARE TRYING TO FACILITATE A LITTLE MORE THE BUSINESS REPRESENTATION HERE. WE UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE SOME CHANGES IN CZECH PRACTICE IN THAT RESPECT, NOT JUST FOR THE US, BUT FOR OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL" MAKING THE BUSINESS RESPRESENTATION ARRANGEMENT "MORE PARALLEL TO THAT WHICH EXISTS

IN OTHER SOCIALIST  
COUNTRIES."

AMBASSADORS

MR. HARTMAN SAID HE THOUGHT THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD BE NAMING NEW  
AMBASSADORS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. NOTING THE ABSENCE OF AMBASSADORS  
IN BOTH COUNTRIES FOR SEVERAL MONTHS HE SAID "NEITHER SIDE HAS  
DONE THIS FOR  
POLITICAL REASONS AT ALL."

LFURING HIS THREE DAYS IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK CAPITAL MR. HARTMAN MET  
WITH DEPUTY PREMIER JINDRICH ZAHRADNIK, FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER  
BOHUSLAV CHNOUPEK, DEPUTY MINISTER DUSAN SPACIL, AND DEPUTY  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE, JAROSLAV JAKUBEC. MR. HARTMAN WAS GUEST  
OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRHF AT A LUNCHEON AT CERNIN PALACE AND AT  
A RECEPTION HELD BY THE AMERICAN CHARGE, MR. JACK R. PERRY. QUINN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PRAGUE02645  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750353-0214  
**From:** PRAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751061/aaaaccfc.tel  
**Line Count:** 185  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 13 NOV 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <13 NOV 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <20 JAN 2004 by buchant0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HARTMAN PRESS CONFERENCE, PRAGUE, OCT. 10. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ARTHUR A. HARTMAN TOLD A PRAGUE PRESS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, OVIP, CZ, US, (HARTMAN, ARTHUR A)  
**To:** USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006